

## Interview with Michael Asher, March 1981 - Part 1

Extracted on Apr-18-2024 04:11:56

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the following terms.

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the
  Archives of American Art as source of the content and the project title as provided
  at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name;
  when possible, link to the Archives of American Art website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Archives of American Art or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Archives of American Art. See this project and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

**WEBVTT** 

00:06:39.000 --> 00:06:42.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: And the pink stuff

00:06:42.000 --> 00:06:43.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Mmhmm

00:06:43.000 --> 00:06:47.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: And it's all the fiberglass

00:06:47.000 --> 00:06:55.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: And then you just have the final course is that stuff that looks is practically transparent.

00:06:55.000 --> 00:06:58.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Oh but this is existing

00:06:58.000 --> 00:06:59.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: No, no no

00:06:59.000 --> 00:07:01.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: This is what you put in

00:07:01.000 --> 00:07:02.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: No, I put all those walls in

00:07:02.000 --> 00:07:03.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Geez, you're smart

00:07:03.000 --> 00:07:07.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: Yeah, I put all the walls in. So this had 3. This is constructed that way

00:07:07.000 --> 00:07:11.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: I thought you were saying [[inaudible]]

00:07:11.000 --> 00:07:13.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: No.

00:07:13.000 --> 00:07:19.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: This construction is the same way. And this construction, this construction is the same way.

00:07:19.000 --> 00:07:27.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: And, like I say, all these walls. Uh, the path, the beams in which they sat

00:07:27.000 --> 00:07:35.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: Were isolated, or the studs were isolated from the rest of the building with, with rubber

00:07:35.000 --> 00:07:43.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: So the fact that you weren't getting subsonic sounds, normally you were getting, you were just getting, you were just getting

00:07:43.000 --> 00:07:44.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Oh, that's interesting

00:07:44.000 --> 00:07:46.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: You're just getting, it's total absorption

00:07:46.000 --> 00:07:48.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: See, I don't even know to know that

00:07:48.000 --> 00:07:49.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: It's--

00:07:49.000 --> 00:07:52.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: I don't even know what subsonic sound is, but you see, I understand especially in New York.

00:07:52.000 --> 00:07:54.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: Yeah, well

00:07:54.000 --> 00:07:55.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: That doesn't mean I know about it.

00:07:55.000 --> 00:07:57.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: There is there's a simple reason

00:07:57.000 --> 00:07:58.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: You get that rumbling.

00:07:58.000 --> 00:08:01.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: Yeah there's a simple reason, that, um

00:08:01.000 --> 00:08:07.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: The train goes underneath

00:08:07.000 --> 00:08:16.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: Yeah. So and basically, basically people are touching or walking on this, in this other area anyway so they might

00:08:16.000 --> 00:08:25.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: Any sort of rattling of the walls or hitting of them might also cause reverberance which I didn't want.

00:08:25.000 --> 00:08:33.000

<i>Jan Butterfield</i>: Now, were you-- did you feel you were successful in getting rid of all that external sound or did you work especially to do

00:08:33.000 --> 00:08:39.000

<i>Michael Asher</i>: I didn't want to. On this axis here at all.

00:08:39.000 --> 00:08:48.377

<i>Michael Asher</i>: All I wanted to do was on this axis here. So where it was most dense, it had to be most dense at this part and that part



The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: https://transcription.si.edu

On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter

On Twitter: @TranscribeSI

Connect with the Smithsonian Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian

On Twitter: @smithsonian